AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at **page 14, line 7** in the specification with the following replacement paragraph:

— Implementing the decoder 10 in any of the forms considered in the foregoing represents a task within ~~he~~ the common ability of the person skilled in the art having read the detailed ~~descrition~~ description provided herein. —

Please replace the paragraph beginning at **page 14, line 22** in the specification with the following replacement paragraph:

— ~~Be~~ Assume N is the number of bits in the largest (i.e. longest) codeword, without signed extension. If the codebook is properly generated, then shorter codewords are more frequent than longer codewords. —

Please replace the paragraph beginning at **page 15, line 1** in the specification with the following replacement paragraph:

— Then every codeword that has a length less than or equal to k (i.e. any "short" codeword) can be decoded in one step by using a first lookup table LUT1 in the "container" CNR. Long codewords, i.e. those having lengths greater ~~then~~ than k bits, can be analyzed using n-k bits (where n is less than or equal to N) as an index in ~~an~~ at least one further lookup table LUT2 in the container CNR. —

Please replace the table beginning at **page 17, line 1** in the specification with the following replacement table:

x	y	Length	Codeword
0	0	1	1
0	1	3+1	~~010~~s_x010s_y
0	2	6+1	000001s_y
1	0	3+1	011s_x
1	1	3+1	001$s_x s_y$
1	2	5+2	00001$s_x s_y$
2	0	5+1	00011s_x
2	1	5+2	00010$s_x s_y$
2	2	6+2	000000$s_x s_y$

Please replace the paragraph beginning at **page 19, line 9** in the specification with the following replacement paragraph:

--- As an alternative to such a basic lookup decoding technique, the decoding process proposed in the article by Hashemian ~~repeately reffered~~repeatedly referred to in the foregoing could be resorted to. This would lead to generating a super-tree with two clusters, that use two lookup tables each of 2^k entries, with k— in the present example— equal to 5. Such an arrangement would employ 64 (sixty-four) entries. ---

Please replace the paragraph beginning at **page 19, line 17** in the specification with the following replacement paragraph:

— With the decoder arrangement described herein, based on the container table CNR, only 50 (fifty) entries are ~~qreuired~~ required for decoding the same codebook. This is a very satisfactory result and, additionally, is adapted to be implemented easily from